William Wolfe

SPE 545

Instructor: Wu

**Software Evaluation**

**Lesson Plan Using Owl and Mouse Educational Software**

**Subject:** Reading

**Grade:** Elementary, Special Education

**Time:** 10 min. per student

**Objective:** To recognize letters, phonemic awareness and phonics.

**Materials:** Owl and Mouse Educational Software and a computer.

**Procedure:** When the program is opened, three houses appear onscreen. Each house has a letter printed it. A picture of an object appears as a computer voice says the name of the object. The student must then click on the object and drag it to the house which bears the letter which begins the spelling of the pictured object.

When the student places the picture in the correct house, the letter appears and the computer says the name of the letter. The correct spelling of the word then appears as the computer voice says the word (i.e. “m…mouse, m…mouse”).

This repetition helps the student relation letters to the sounds they represent, and exposes them the spelling of simple words.

When the student gets ten correct answers in a row they can move on to the letter blends game and so forth.

Through repetition and advancement a student can solidify his/her basic reading skills.

**Owl and Mouse in Practice**

I tried this software with an autistic first grader. He took to the program right away. This boy is very comfortable and adept with the computer. He seemed to really enjoy dragging the icons to the proper house and seemed to get a sense of satisfaction when he was correct.

As the computer voice repeated the letter and word, the student mouthed and spoke the word along with it. The words flashed on screen exposing him to the proper spelling of the words.

I believe he enjoyed working with the program and it seemed to solidify his basic reading skills. Soon he will be ready to move on to the Letter Blends section and begin learning more advanced reading concepts.

The Owl and Mouse Educational Software website offers many interesting programs which focus on a wide variety of subject areas. All these programs are available for free. They seem to be very easy to work with. I found this website to be an excellent educational resource.